

NEW COMBINATIONS FOR *SOLANUM AMERICANUM* MILLER (SOLANACEAE) IN AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND

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Summary

The new combinations *Solanum americanum* subsp. *nodiflorum* and *Solanum americanum* subsp. *nutans* are made.

In the account of *Solanum americanum* Miller in Flora of Australia 29 (Purdie *et al.* 1982), no infraspecific taxa were recognized. I believe I have shown convincingly (Henderson 1974) that, within the plants concerned in Australia, two infraspecific taxa can be recognized. Though there has been a diversity of world opinion as to whether or not *S. americanum* and *S. nodiflorum* Jacq. are synonyms, in the Australian region, including New Zealand, the majority of workers have, in the light of this, taken the pragmatic view that one variable species is represented here and that its name is *S. americanum*. I have published my views on this (Henderson, *loc. cit.*) but concede that if a broad specific concept is followed, all material I included in *S. nodiflorum* in 1974 can be included in *S. americanum*. However, for field workers recognizing the two taxa I've indicated, there are no distinctive names under *S. americanum* to distinguish them. For their benefit then, the following new combinations are provided.

Solanum americanum* subsp. *nodiflorum* (Jacq.) R. Henderson, **comb. nov.*

Solanum nodiflorum Jacq., Collectanea 2: 288 (1789) ('1788'); Icon. pl. rar. 2: t. 326 (1789), p.11 (1795).

Solanum nodiflorum Jacq. subsp. *nodiflorum*, fide R.J.F. Henderson, Contr. Queensland Herb. 16: 29 (1974).

Solanum americanum var. *nodiflorum* (Jacq.) Edmonds, J. Arnold Arbor. 52: 634 (1971).

Type: cult. Vienna, hb. Jacq. (lecto: BM, fide Henderson, *loc. cit.*).

Solanum americanum* subsp. *nutans* (R. Henderson) R. Henderson, **comb. nov.*

Solanum nodiflorum subsp. *nutans* R. Henderson, Contr. Queensland Herb. 16:30 (1974). **Type:** Department of Primary Industries grounds, Indooroopilly, Queensland, 3 July 1969, R.J.F. Henderson H518 (holo: BRI; iso: GFW, K, MEL, NSW).

I consider these taxa are at least subspecifically distinct from each other and from the type of *S. americanum* subsp. *americanum* for reasons stated previously (Henderson, *op. cit.*), a situation intimated by Edmonds (1977).

The subspecies *nodiflorum* is not definitely known from New Zealand but the subspecies *nutans* is recorded from the north of the South Island, is reasonably widespread in the North Island and is abundant on many offshore islands (W.R. Sykes, pers. comm.). Some New Zealand specimens of this latter subspecies have a somewhat different facies from typical Australian and New Zealand ones but are still distinguishable by the diagnostic characters of the subspecies.

References

- EDMONDS, J.M. (1977). Taxonomic Studies on *Solanum* section *Solanum* (Maurella). *Botanical Journal of the Linnean Society* 75: 141-178.
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- PURDIE, R.W., SYMON, D.E. & HAEGI, L. (1982). Solanaceae. In A.S. George (ed.), *Flora of Australia* 29: 1-197. Canberra: Australian Government Publishing Service.